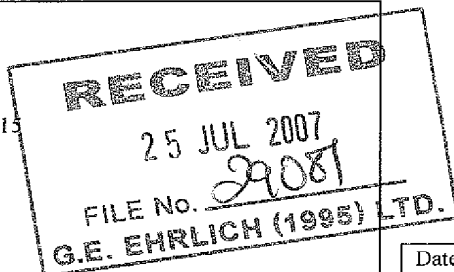


# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

JS

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:  
GAL EHRLICH  
PRTSI, INC.  
P.O. BOX 16446  
ARLINGTON, VA 22215



## PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY  
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year)

17 JUL 2007

Applicant's or agent's file reference

29081

### IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

International filing date (day/month/year)

Priority date (day/month/year)

PCT/IL05/00166

10 February 2005 (10.02.2005)

30 May 2004 (30.05.2004)

Applicant

KORNIT DIGITAL LTD.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary report on patentability and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

#### 4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the *PCT Applicant's Guide*.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed invention is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Authorized officer

STEPHEN D MEIER

Telephone No. (571)272-1562

Form PCT/IPEA/416 (January 2004)

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 29081	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		See Form PCT/IPEA/416																								
International application No. PCT/IL05/00166	International filing date (day/month/year) 10 February 2005 (10.02.2005)	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 May 2004 (30.05.2004)																									
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC: B41J 23/00, 2/01; G03B 27/32,42 USPC: 347/37,104,102; 355/53																											
Applicant KORNIT DIGITAL LTD.																											
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>11</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of ___ sheets, as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>																											
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 20%;">Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report																									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority																									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability																									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention																									
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement																									
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited																									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application																									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application																									
Date of submission of the demand 09 April 2007 (09.04.2007)		Date of completion of this report 21 June 2007 (21.06.2007)																									
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201		Authorized officer <i>Phonise for Bell</i> STEPHEN D MEIER Telephone No. (571)272-1562																									

**Box No. I Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed.
- ☐ a translation of the international application into \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
- ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

- ☒ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:  
pages 1-19 as originally filed/furnished  
pages\* NONE received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
pages\* NONE received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:  
pages 20-30 as originally filed/furnished  
pages\* NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
pages\* NONE received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
pages\* NONE received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:  
pages 1-15 as originally filed/furnished  
pages\* NONE received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
pages\* NONE received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.  
PCT/IL05/00166

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	<u>YES</u>
	Claims <u>1-81</u>	<u>NO</u>
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	<u>YES</u>
	Claims <u>1-81</u>	<u>NO</u>
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-81</u>	<u>YES</u>
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	<u>NO</u>

**2. Citations and Explanations (Rule 70.7)**  
Please See Continuation Sheet

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/IL05/00166

**Box No. VI** Certain documents cited

## 1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

Application No <u>Patent No.</u>	Publication Date <u>(day/month/year)</u>	Filing Date <u>(day/month/year)</u>	Priority date (valid claim) <u>(day/month/year)</u>
US 2003/0142167 A1	31/07/2003	22/11/2002	28/11/2001
US 5757407	26/05/1996	25/11/1996	
US 6536894	25/03/2003	06/06/2000	
US 6755518	29/06/2004	21/11/2001	30/08/2001
US 2003/0197772	23/10/2003	22/04/2003	23/04/2002

## 2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

<u>Kind of non-written disclosure</u>	Date of non-written disclosure <u>(day/month/year)</u>	Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure <u>(day/month/year)</u>
---------------------------------------	---	--

## Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of:

1. Claims 13-19, 32-81 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Iwatsuki et al. (US 2003/0197772 A1) in view of Codos (US 6755518) and Rasmussen et al. (US 6536894).

Iwatsuki et al. discloses a printing machine comprising:

a rigid frame (*FIG. 1, element 1*);

a linear motion X axis stage (*FIG. 1, elements 11, 11a-b*) mounted on said frame;

a printing table assembly (*FIG. 1, elements 12, 13, 15*) movable on said linear X axis stage (*FIG. 1: The stage 11 linearly moves from FRONT SIDE to REAR SIDE and versa*);

a linear motion Y axis stage (*FIG. 1, elements 2-4*) mounted on said frame perpendicular to said linear X axis stage, above said printing table assembly (*FIG. 1: The carriage 4 moves along a direction perpendicular to the moving direction of printing table assembly 11*);

an array of inkjet nozzles (*FIG. 1, element 5 and paragraph [0066]: The printing head 5 has a plurality of nozzles*) mounted on said linear Y axis stage for linear motion perpendicular to said X axis stage (*FIG. 1: The carriage 4 moves the printhead 4 across the printing table assembly*).

Iwatsuki et al., however, does not teach a curing unit located above said printing table assembly and arranged to cure ink on media on said printing assembly, wherein said curing unit is an infrared system or a hot air blowing unit and wherein at least part of said printing table assembly is a vacuum table.

Codos discloses an ink jet printing apparatus mounted on a rigid frame (*FIG. 1, element 11*) and including an ink jet printhead assembly (*FIG. 1, element 125*) for forming images on a printing medium (*FIG. 1, element 15*) conveyed by a vacuum conveyor (*FIG. 1, element 105, 121*) and a curing unit located above the printing medium to cure ink deposited on

**Supplemental Box**

the printing medium, wherein said curing unit is an infrared system or a hot air blowing unit (*FIG. 1, elements 124, 126; column 8, lines 62-64: Heating by forced hot air is preferred, although other heat sources, such as infrared heaters can be used*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Iwatsuki et al.'s printing apparatus to include a curing unit to cure ink deposited on the printing medium as disclosed by Codos. The motivation for doing so would have been to cure the ink upon its contacting the substrate (printing medium) to prevent ink spreading and wicking that affect printing quality as taught by Codos (*column 2, lines 65-67*). In addition, Iwatsuki et al. does not teach an ironing unit located above said printing table assembly and arranged to iron media on said printing assembly before printing thereon.

Rasmussen et al. discloses an ink jet printing apparatus including an ink jet printhead (*FIG. 2B, element 14*) for forming images on a printing medium conveyed by a conveyor (32) and an ironing unit located above said printing medium and arranged to iron said printing media before printing thereon (*FIG. 2B, elements 201', 202; column 3, lines 32-38: Heating and pressing the print media upstream of printing to flatten print media prior to ink jet printing thereon*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Iwatsuki et al.'s printing apparatus to include an ironing unit located above the printing medium to iron the printing media before printing as disclosed by Rasmussen et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a flat and stable media for printing in order to improve image quality as taught by Rasmussen et al. (*column 4, lines 19-24*).

**Iwatsuki et al. also teaches the following claimed invention:**

wherein said printing table assembly comprises a media-holding plate (*FIG. 5A-D, element 15*) and an openable cover (*FIG. 1, element 14*) pivotally coupled to said media-holding plate for holding said media firmly against said plate (*FIG. 5A-D*).

wherein said media-holding plate (*FIG. 5A-D, element 15*) includes a raised portion (*FIG. 5A-D, element 12*), and said cover includes a window (*FIG. 5A-D: The window is defined by the inner frame 19 of the frame structure (cover) 14*) of the same shape and slightly larger than said raised portion (*FIG. 5A-D, elements 12 and 19: The width of the inner frame (window) 19 is slightly wider than that of the raised portion 12*).

wherein said printing table assembly is a flattened plate (*FIG. 5A-D, elements 12-13 and 15*).

2. Claims 20-21 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Iwatsuki et al. (US 2003/0197772 A1) in view of Codos (US 6755518) and Rasmussen et al. (US 6536894), as applied to claim 13, and further in view of Rezanka (US 5757407).

Iwatsuki et al., as modified, discloses the claimed invention as discussed above and also teaches wherein the printhead includes inkjet nozzles, but is silent wherein said inkjet nozzles include drop-on-demand piezoelectric inkjet nozzles or continuous piezoelectric inkjet nozzles.

Rezanka discloses an ink jet printing apparatus comprising ink jet nozzles including either drop-on-demand piezoelectric inkjet nozzles or continuous piezoelectric inkjet nozzles (*column 12, lines 10-13*) for ejecting ink droplets to form images on a printing medium.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to structure the inkjet printhead in Iwatsuki et al.'s printing apparatus (as modified) to include either drop-on-demand piezoelectric inkjet nozzles or continuous piezoelectric inkjet nozzles for ejecting ink droplets to form images on a printing medium as disclosed by Rezanka. The motivation for doing so would have been well known in the art that because drop-on-demand or continuous piezoelectric ink jet nozzles do not produce heat during ink ejection like thermal inkjet nozzles so the ink ejection is more stable due to less variation in term of the temperature than that in case of thermal inkjet nozzles.

3. Claims 1-3, 22, 27-28 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Iwatsuki et al. (US 2003/0197772 A1) in view of Morita et al. (US 6879378).

Iwatsuki et al. discloses a printing machine comprising:

a rigid frame (*FIG. 1, element 1*);

a first linear motion X axis stage (*FIG. 1, elements 11, 11a-b*) mounted on said frame;

a first printing table assembly (*FIG. 1, elements 12, 13, 15*) movable on said linear X axis stage (*FIG. 1: The stage 11 linearly moves from FRONT SIDE to REAR SIDE and versa*);

a linear motion Y axis stage (*FIG. 1, elements 2-4*) mounted on said frame perpendicular to said linear X axis stage, above said printing table assembly (*FIG. 1: The carriage 4 moves along a direction perpendicular to the moving direction of printing table assembly 11*);

an array of inkjet nozzles (*FIG. 1, element 5 and paragraph [0066]: The printing head 5 has a plurality of nozzles*) mounted on said linear Y axis stage for linear motion perpendicular to said X axis stage (*FIG. 1: The carriage 4 moves the printhead 4 across the printing table assembly*).

Iwatsuki et al., however, does not teach a second linear motion X axis stage mounted on said frame parallel to said first axis stage, and arranged for operation independently of said first axis stage or a second printing table assembly

## Supplemental Box

movable on said linear X axis stage base independently of said first printing table assembly.

Morita et al. discloses an image forming apparatus for forming a pattern on each of at least two workpieces positioned on associated linearly movable support tables/stages, wherein the linearly movable support tables/stages (*FIG. 6, elements 10, 20*) are mounted on the same frame (*FIG. 6, element 5*), being parallel, and arranged for independently operation (*FIG. 6: The two tables 10, 20 move along the parallel directions L1 and L2 and each having independent function at a time*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Iwatsuki et al.'s printing apparatus to include a second table/stage that is parallel and independently operates from the first table/stage as disclosed by Morita et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to be able to alternatively transfer the tables between a load/unload position and an image/pattern forming position and alternatively form images/patterns on the tables so at least two workpieces can be processed simultaneously in order to increase the throughput of the apparatus as taught by Morita et al. (*column 3, lines 45-59*).

**Iwatsuki et al. also teaches the following claimed invention:**

wherein said printing table assembly comprises a media-holding plate (*FIG. 5A-D, element 15*) and an openable cover (*FIG. 1, element 14*) pivotally coupled to said media-holding plate for holding said media firmly against said plate (*FIG. 5A-D*).

wherein said media-holding plate (*FIG. 5A-D, element 15*) includes a raised portion (*FIG. 5A-D, element 12*), and said cover includes a window (*FIG. 5A-D: The window is defined by the inner frame 19 of the frame structure (cover) 14*) of the same shape and slightly larger than said raised portion (*FIG. 5A-D, elements 12 and 19: The width of the inner frame (window) 19 is slightly wider than that of the raise portion 12*).

4. Claims 7-8, 30-31 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Iwatsuki et al. (US 2003/0197772 A1) in view of Morita et al. (US 6879378), as applied to claims 1 and 22, and further in view of Rezanka (US 5757407).

Iwatsuki et al., as modified, discloses the claimed invention as discussed above and also teaches wherein the printhead includes inkjet nozzles, but is silent wherein said inkjet nozzles include drop-on-demand piezoelectric inkjet nozzles or continuous piezoelectric inkjet nozzles.

Rezanka discloses an ink jet printing apparatus comprising ink jet nozzles including either drop-on-demand piezoelectric inkjet nozzles or continuous piezoelectric inkjet nozzles (*column 12, lines 10-13*) for ejecting ink droplets to form images on a printing medium.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to structure the inkjet printhead in Iwatsuki et al.'s printing apparatus (as modified) to include either drop-on-demand piezoelectric inkjet nozzles or continuous piezoelectric inkjet nozzles for ejecting ink droplets to form images on a printing medium as disclosed by Rezanka. The motivation for doing so would have been well known in the art that because drop-on-demand or continuous piezoelectric ink jet nozzles do not produce heat during ink ejection like thermal inkjet nozzles so the ink ejection is more stable due to less variation in term of the temperature than that in case of thermal inkjet nozzles.

5. Claims 6, 9-11, 24-26, and 29 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Iwatsuki et al. (US 2003/0197772 A1) in view of Morita et al. (US 6879378), as applied to claims 1 and 22, and further in view of Codos (US 6755518).

Iwatsuki et al., as modified, discloses the claimed invention as discussed above except a curing unit located above each said printing table assembly and arranged to cure ink on media on said printing assembly, wherein said curing unit is an infrared system or a hot air blowing unit, and wherein at least part of said printing table assembly is a vacuum table.

Codos discloses an ink jet printing apparatus including an ink jet printhead (*FIG. 1, element 125*) for forming images on a printing medium (*FIG. 1, elements 15*) conveyed by a vacuum conveyor (*FIG. 1, element 105, 121*) and a curing unit located above the printing medium to cure ink deposited on the printing medium, wherein said curing unit is an infrared system or a hot air blowing unit (*FIG. 1, elements 124, 126; column 8, lines 62-64: Heating by forced hot air is preferred, although other heat sources, such as infrared heaters can be used*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Iwatsuki et al.'s printing apparatus (as modified) to include a curing unit to cure ink deposited on the printing medium as disclosed by Codos. The motivation for doing so would have been to cure the ink upon its contacting the substrate (printing medium) to prevent ink spreading and wicking that affect printing quality as taught by Codos (*column 2, lines 65-67*).

6. Claims 12 and 23 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Iwatsuki et al. (US 2003/0197772 A1) in view of Morita et al. (US 6879378), as applied to claims 1 and 22, and further in view of Rasmussen et al. (US 6536894).

Iwatsuki et al., as modified, discloses the claimed invention as discussed above except an ironing unit located above each said printing table assembly and arranged to iron media on said printing table assemblies.



## Supplemental Box

Rasmussen et al. discloses an ink jet printing apparatus including an ink jet printhead (*FIG. 2B, element 14*) for forming images on a printing medium conveyed by a conveyor (32) and an ironing unit located above said printing medium and arranged to iron said printing media before printing thereon (*FIG. 2B, elements 201', 202; column 3, lines 32-38: Heating and pressing the print media upstream of printing to flatten print media prior to ink jet printing thereon*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Iwatsuki et al.'s printing apparatus (as modified) to include an ironing unit located above the printing medium to iron the printing media before printing as disclosed by Rasmussen et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide a flat and stable media for printing in order to improve image quality as taught by Rasmussen et al. (*column 4, lines 19-24*).

7. Claims 4-5 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Iwatsuki et al. (US 2003/0197772 A1) in view of Morita et al. (US 6879378), as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Nakamura et al. (US 2003/0142167 A1).

Iwatsuki et al., as modified, discloses the claimed invention as discussed above except wherein said linear motion X axis stage is a linear motor driven stage and said linear motion Y axis stage is a linear motor driven stage.

Nakamura et al. discloses an ink jet printing apparatus comprising a linear motion X axis stage (*FIG. 9, elements 19, 52-53*) to convey an ink jet printhead (*FIG. 9, element 22*) to form images on a printing medium (*FIG. 9, element 12*) positioned on a printing table (*FIG. 9, element 49*) conveyed by a linear motion Y axis stage (*FIG. 9, elements 21, 54, 56*), wherein both X and Y linear motion stages are linear motor driven stages (*paragraphs [0103]-[0104]: An X slider/stage 53 contains a linear motor. A Y slider/stage 56 contains a linear motor. The X and Y sliders move when the associated built-in linear motor is operated*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Iwatsuki et al.'s printing apparatus (as modified) to move/drive the stages by linear motors as disclosed by Nakamura et al. The motivation for doing so would have been because it is possible to control a position of the ink jet head supported by the X stage and a position of the printing table supported by the Y stage very precisely as taught by Nakamura (*paragraph [0105]*).

8. Claims 1-81 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4) and thus the claims meet industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.